

# JTA daily news bulletin

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Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency / 165 West 46th Street / New York, New York 10036

Vol. LXI - 66th Year

Wednesday, May 11, 1983

No. 90

## ISRAEL ASSESSING DEPARTURE OF FAMILIES OF SOVIET DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL FROM BEIRUT By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 10 (JTA) -- The sudden, unexplained departure from Beirut of the families of Soviet diplomatic personnel has disturbed Israelis who recall that the last large scale evacuation of Russians from Arab capitals occurred in October, 1973, shortly before the outbreak of the Yom Kippur War.

Soviet sources said initially that the families were evacuated because of the renewed fighting between Christian and Moslem factions in and around Beirut. A Soviet spokesman in Amman, Jordan, said later that the Russian families were simply going on their summer vacations. But Israel reportedly is keeping close contact with American officials at various levels to assess the situation. (Related story from Washington.)

There seems to be agreement here that the Soviets make no move without specific motive. According to some Israeli sources they are trying to indicate that no agreements can be signed in the Middle East without bringing Moscow into the picture. According to Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the Soviet Union is applying pressure on Lebanon not to sign the withdrawal agreement it reached with Israel.

Israeli circles are trying to play down any connection between the renewed sectarian fighting in Lebanon this week and Israel's acceptance of the agreement worked out by Secretary of State George Shultz. But some observers are convinced that the fighting and the departure of Russian families are intended to convince the Beirut government not to sign the accord.

### Role Of The Soviet Union

Israeli experts on Soviet affairs agree that the USSR wants to nullify the agreement, which was the result of American diplomacy, and secure a unilateral, unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. But these experts also share the view that the Soviets will not pursue their objectives to the point of pushing Syria into a military confrontation with Israel.

Prof. Galia Golan, a Soviet affairs expert at the Hebrew University, suggested that Moscow has nothing to gain from a war between Syria and Israel, "given the proximity of Israeli forces to Damascus." According to Golan the presence of Soviet advisors and U.S. marines within a small geographical area is considered dangerous by the Kremlin.

In Golan's opinion, the Russians are behind Syria's refusal to accept the accord between Lebanon and Israel and pull its own forces out of Lebanon. She believes the Soviets are interfering in order to gain some sort of compromise or concession from the U.S. such as agreement to give Moscow a role in the overall Middle East peace process.

Israelis still hope the U.S. can convince Syria to join the agreement. If it does, the accord could be signed by next week, they say. But the question persists of what Israel will do if the Syrians refuse to cooperate and the agreement is not implemented. The

only proposal raised so far is a unilateral Israeli withdrawal to the Awali river line, the boundary of the 28-mile security zone north of Israel's border.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens told the Likud Knesset faction last night that such a move would have only short-term advantages. If Israel carries out a partial withdrawal and the Syrians and Palestine Liberation Organization keep their forces in place, he said, the PLO would take over the territory evacuated by Israel and the new line would become a front for a war of attrition.

## U.S. CONCERNED ABOUT SYRIAN BUILDUP OF TROOPS AND EQUIPMENT IN THE BEKAA VALLEY By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 10 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration expressed concern today about Syria's beefing up of troops and equipment in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley as well as the "reintroduction" of Palestine Liberation Organization forces in Syrian-controlled territory. But it stressed that it did not believe Syria was preparing to attack Israeli forces in Lebanon.

At the same time, the Administration charged the Soviet Union with behaving "irresponsibly" in the area by playing "to historical fears and animosities." But State Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg, in castigating the Soviets, who have charged the U.S. and Israel with preparing for "another war" in the Middle East, said the U.S. could not explain the Soviet's motives.

Observers in Washington and in Israel have claimed that the Soviet Union is trying to increase tension in the area as a means of frightening the Lebanese and preventing them from signing the agreement with Israel for the withdrawal of Israeli troops worked out by Secretary of State George Shultz last week. Some have used this argument to explain the sudden departure of the wives and children of Soviet Embassy personnel from Beirut yesterday.

But Romberg said the U.S. did not know why the Soviet families left Beirut. It is the usual practice for the families to return to Moscow in the summer. But the departure yesterday was much earlier than normal.

The Administration is clearly worried about the Syrian buildup since today's statement was the first it has publicly made about it, although Israeli officials have been saying for weeks that the Syrians are preparing for war. "There have been some movement of Syrian forces and material into Lebanon," Romberg said today. But he could not give any figures.

The Syrians were believed to have 40,000 troops in Lebanon before the buildup started. The Israelis, who reportedly have 30,000 troops in Lebanon, are believed to also have moved some troops and material into Lebanon in response to the Syrian buildup.

Romberg said there has "clearly" been a "reintroduction" of PLO forces into areas of Lebanon under Syrian control. Here, too, he could give no figure. The PLO is now believed to have anywhere from 8,000 to 14,000 terrorists in Lebanon.

This is clearly a violation of the agreement last September for the evacuation of the PLO which for-

bids them to return to Lebanon, a State Department official pointed out. When it was suggested that the PLO terrorists might not be carrying arms, an official replied, "They're not carrying cans of daffodils."

Romberg said that "we have noted repeatedly that with Israeli and Syrian forces juxtaposed in a tense situation such as exists and has existed since last summer in the Bekaa, there is a persistent threat of a renewal of hostilities. To that end, we have been working with the parties involved to bring about a complete foreign troop withdrawal and lessening of tension in Lebanon. That remains our paramount objective and is the publicly stated objective of Syria. We continue to urge restraint on all the parties involved in Lebanon so that negotiations for withdrawal can proceed."

Romberg could give no immediate example of the Syrians' publicly stating they would withdraw from Lebanon. Shultz and other U.S. officials have said in the past that they were assured by the Syrians and other Arabs that Syria and the PLO would leave Lebanon once there is an agreement for Israel to do so.

But Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khad dam said in Saudi Arabia yesterday that Syria rejects the Israeli-Lebanese agreement because it would end the state of war between Israel and Lebanon and "to do that is a responsibility of all Arab states and not just Lebanon."

#### U.S. Response To Tass Statement

The Administration's criticism of the Soviet Union was in the form of a written statement read by Romberg which was a response to a statement by Tass yesterday attacking the Israeli-Lebanese agreement. Tass charged that the agreement is "justly viewed by the Arab countries, particularly the neighboring ones, as a direct threat to their security and to peace in the Middle East." The official Soviet news agency charged that "another war is being prepared while lip-service is being paid to peace."

The U.S. response today declared: "It ill behooves the Soviet Union, which has 100,000 occupation forces in Afghanistan and is supporting 180,000 Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea, to criticize an agreement between two sovereign states -- Lebanon and Israel -- providing for the withdrawal of forces, the establishment of mutually agreed security arrangements and improved relations."

"In an area plagued by tension and fighting, when dedicated efforts are underway to create conditions to prevent the recurrence of war, the people of the area had a right to expect a constructive Soviet role. Instead, while others search for peace, for which the peoples of the region yearn and which they so richly deserve, Moscow has irresponsibly chosen to play to political fears and animosities."

#### FUTURE STATUS OF UNIFIL UNCEAR

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, May 10 (JTA) -- The future of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), following the Lebanese-Israeli accord on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon, is unclear, United Nations officials said today.

The officials said that after the accord is implemented the Security Council will have to convene in a special session to decide if the mandate of UNIFIL should continue or if there should be any changes regarding its composition and operation.

UNIFIL's mandate was extended in January for another six-months period. The 6,000 member UNIFIL was established by the Security Council in 1978 to monitor the peace in south Lebanon.

#### ISRAELI CIVILIAN KILLED IN GAZA

TEL AVIV, May 10 (JTA) -- Israeli security forces have placed Gaza under curfew following the fatal shooting today of an Israeli civilian. Menachem Dadon, 24, a member of a nearby kibbutz, was shot at short range in the neck as he was shopping in Gaza's central marketplace, military officials said. He was pronounced dead at the scene. Military officials said he was the victim of an apparent Palestinian terrorist attack. A search of the area was immediately launched.

#### N.Y. STATE LEGISLATURE ADOPTS RESOLUTIONS MARKING 16th ANNIVERSARY OF THE RE-UNIFICATION OF JERUSALEM

By Rochelle Saidel-Wolk

ALBANY, May 10 (JTA) -- In a move unprecedented in any state legislature, the New York State Assembly and Senate this week adopted resolutions commemorating the 16th anniversary of the re-unification of Jerusalem. Jerusalem Day is marked in Israel this year on May 11.

Resolutions introduced in the Assembly by Assemblywoman Nettie Mayersohn and Assemblyman Alan Hevesy, both Democrats from Queens, and in the Senate by Democratic Leader Manfred Ohrenstein of Manhattan and Sen. Norman Levy (R. Nassau), were unanimously approved by both houses. As the similar resolutions were introduced, Naphthali Lavie, Israel's Consul General in New York, was recognized as a special guest on the floor of each chamber.

The resolutions traced the history of Jerusalem, emphasizing Israel's desire for peace and concluded: "Upon the occasion of the sixteenth anniversary of the re-unification of Jerusalem, this legislative body is greatly moved to acknowledge the contribution to world peace rendered through the heroic efforts of the people of the State of Israel; now therefore, be it resolved that this Legislative body pause in its deliberations and most joyously commemorate the sixteenth anniversary of the re-unification of Jerusalem in the beloved State of Israel."

Lavie said of the resolutions: "I appreciate very much the gesture of the legislators who took this initiative and invited me. On behalf of the State of Israel, I express gratitude for this noble statement of support."

Emphasizing that the re-unification of Jerusalem allowed people of all faiths to regain access to worship at their holy sites, Lavie added: "I hope this resolution will serve as an example for other states of the union."

Prior to the legislative sessions, Lavie was the guest of honor at a Jerusalem Day luncheon for Jewish legislators, hosted by Mayersohn and Hevesy. The Israeli Consul briefed the legislators and their staffs on the new Israel-Lebanon agreement.

#### SHARON: U.S. WARNED ISRAEL NOT TO GO INTO LEBANON

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, May 10 (JTA) -- Israel never received approval from the United States for its invasion of Lebanon 11 months ago, according to former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, who said, "On the contrary, we were warned not to go" into Lebanon.

Sharon, who is now Minister-Without-Portfolio, told reporters at a press conference last night at the Sutton Place Synagogue, that U.S. officials had warned against taking military action against Palestinian terrorists in south Lebanon without "clear provocation."

"I asked, 'When you are talking about Jews, what is clear provocation? How many Jews must be killed?'" Sharon said. "I say we don't have to wait until the knife cuts deep into our throats."

The press conference preceded a public dialogue Sharon participated in with Rabbi David Kahane, spiritual leader of the Suttan Place Synagogue. An estimated 1500 persons crowded into the synagogue, which included a basement hall filled to capacity where a closed circuit broadcast of the dialogue was provided. Outside, meanwhile, hundreds jammed the street listening to Sharon through loudspeakers.

At the press conference, Sharon said the Lebanon action was initiated to "crush the kingdom of terror with its headquarters in Beirut and to eliminate the threat against northern Israeli towns of being shelled by PLO rockets."

During the dialogue, the Israeli official said that from January, 1965 through June 6, 1983, when Israel crossed the border into Lebanon, there were 1,392 people killed and about 6,390 wounded as a result of terrorist operations directed or orchestrated from Lebanon by Palestinian terrorists against Jewish-owned and Israeli-operated installations worldwide.

#### Cites Failure Of The Accord

Sharon, who along with Minister of Science Yuval Neeman of the ultra-nationalist Tehiya faction, cast the two dissenting votes in the Cabinet last Friday against the agreement reached between Israel and Lebanon, said the agreement failed to take into consideration adequately Israel's security needs to prevent a return to the region of Palestinian terrorists.

"The agreement does not prevent the future regrouping of terrorists in Lebanon," Sharon said. He said the Lebanese government does not control Lebanon nor does it hardly have control of Beirut. While not directly accusing the multinational force which operates in Beirut and its environs of "collaborating with terrorists," Sharon said that they act as a "barrier" against Israeli forces taking action against them.

Sharon said he also objected to the agreement because it weakens the role of Israel's ally in south Lebanon, Maj. Saad Haddad, commander of a 1,200 man Christian militia force. He said that the one-third of Lebanese land controlled by Haddad in the southern region is the only place where there "is relative harmony" between the various Lebanese groups.

#### Replies To Questions

Sharon, who was interrupted with applause more than a dozen times during the two-hour dialogue with Kahane, appeared relaxed and good-spirited. On the 13 questions covering a broad range of topics Sharon was asked, he gave the following replies:

\* On Israel's operation "Peace for Galilee," he said that many Israeli casualties were a result of efforts by the Israel Defense Force to prevent Lebanese civilian casualties.

\* Israel did not "invade" Lebanon but went there "with a clear purpose ... to destroy, to eliminate the PLO terrorists who were killing, massacring and raping Lebanese civilians."

\* Referring to the Israel Commission of Inquiry report into the Beirut refugee camps massacre by Christian Phalangists which resulted in his resignation as Defense Minister, Sharon said it was the first time anywhere that a Defense Minister left his post "due to actions by others ... Israel was not responsible directly and not indirectly."

\* American Jews have a right to voice concern over Israeli policies that deal with social, scientific and cultural developments. But he said when it

comes to Israel's security needs, Israelis should not be pressured by world Jewry to any position since it is the Israeli who is fighting and serving to defend the Jewish State.

\* Sharon reaffirmed his commitment to continued Jewish settlement activities on the West Bank while pointing out its strategic importance. He said Jewish settlement was the best way to prevent the establishment of a "second" Palestinian state, a reference to his persistent claims that Jordan is a Palestinian state.

\* Asked about a solution to the future status of Jerusalem, Sharon said: "The problem of Jerusalem has already been solved." He said this was accomplished in 1967 after Israel gained control over all of Jerusalem in the Six-Day-War and that the capital now provides free access and entrance to all.

\* Sharon also said that the role of a "Jewish General" is that he must be "a commander devoted fully to his country and ready to take responsibility." He added: "If we, the Jews, lose the war, we will be exterminated. This a Jewish General should know."

#### SWEDISH ANTI-SEMITES SENTENCED

NEW YORK, May 10 (JTA) -- An anti-Semitic agitator in Sweden has been sentenced to 10 months in prison for disseminating hate material. The conviction of Ditlieb Felderer, a key adherent of the Institute for Historical Review (IHR), a U.S.-based outfit seeking to disprove the Nazi Holocaust, was aided by information provided by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

The Swedish government prosecutor, Torsten Jonsson, in a letter to the ADL's European Office director, Shimon Samuels, thanked the ADL for the information. "It was of great value for me and made it easier for me to visualize the background of the case," Jonsson wrote.

Felderer, who resides in the Stockholm suburb of Taby, publishes anti-Semitic newsletters entitled "Jewish Information," "Bible Researcher" and "Arab News" which are distributed throughout Europe.

According to the information supplied to the prosecutor, Felderer was the source of mailings to leaders of the European Jewish community which contained pieces of fat and locks of hair with an enclosed letter asking recipients if they could identify the contents as Hungarian Jews gassed in Auschwitz. Felderer is also known to have called Jewish groups using the pseudonym "David Cohen" to seek out information to supposedly counter revisionist claims.

Among the key witnesses who testified against Felderer was Mel Mermelstein, a Long Beach, Calif. businessman and Holocaust survivor who is suing the IHR for failing to make good on a \$50,000 reward promised to anyone who could prove the Holocaust took place.

The investigation into the Felderer case was launched largely due to the effort of Vincent Frank Steiner, president of the Anne Frank Foundation of Switzerland.

#### AWARD GIVEN TO FRENCH CARTOONIST

PARIS, May 10 (JTA) -- French cartoonist Tim has been awarded the prize of the Foundation of French Judaism for his works. Tim, born in Poland in 1919, is a member of the editorial committee of the weekly news magazine, L'Express. His cartoons are well-known throughout the world.

Tim, whose real name is Louis Mittelberg, joined the Free French Forces in London during World War II. After the war he settled in Paris and started his career. The president of the jury, Nobel Prize winner, Andre Lwoff, said that Tim's caricatures "victoriously defend the values we are most attached to: tolerance, human rights and dignity."

## GOLDBERG: NOTHING U.S. JEWS COULD DO WOULD HAVE DETERRED HITLER

By James Rice

CHICAGO, May 10 (JTA) -- Arthur Goldberg, chairman of the American Jewish Commission on the Holocaust, recently revealed his personal experiences and emotions during the Hitler era to a standing-room only audience at Chicago's Kent College of Law.

Born in the U.S. of parents who came to this city in 1894, the former Supreme Court Justice and Ambassador to the United Nations said that were it not for that event, he too "would have been in Auschwitz or in one of the other 1,000 death camps." For that reason, he said, he feels as if he had the concentration camp numbers tattooed on his arm "almost physically."

Goldberg dealt directly with the sensitive issues of what the American Jewish community knew 40 years ago about the Holocaust, and what they could have done. The "verdict is beyond challenge that nothing the American Jews could do would have deterred Hitler," he said.

The Allied governments certainly had some power of deterrence which was not used, Goldberg said. But even that might not have stopped the murder machine, as evidenced by Adolf Eichman's use of railroad facilities to send Jews to death camps, when the German army was in a desperate retreat to the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin.

### U.S. Was Urged To Bomb Auschwitz

Goldberg revealed that in 1943 he was stationed in London as a member of the U.S. Office of Strategic Services, when he was approached by Shmuel Ziegelman, a member of the Polish government-in-exile. Ziegelman showed him photographs and affidavits from Auschwitz, smuggled out of Poland by a brave non-Jewish Pole, disguised as an Estonian policeman. Ziegelman begged Goldberg to convince the Allies to bomb the rail-line to Auschwitz.

After William Donovan, head of the OSS, had seen the evidence, he told Goldberg that American planes could not be "diverted" -- although planes were bombing a German war plant only five miles away. The day after Goldberg gave Ziegelman news of the refusal, Ziegelman committed suicide.

Goldberg said European Jews had not realized the danger until too late because they were "benumbed." And so were American Jews who might have done more, he added. In his view, only the American Orthodox Jews were sufficiently vigorous in their protests, which were ineffective to the general public because they conducted their meetings in Yiddish.

The American Jewish community, which then did not have the political influence it has today, was intensely loyal to President Roosevelt, who "couldn't stand up to the pressure, including from labor and the isolationist public," who were all against relaxing immigration restrictions, Goldberg said.

### No More "Quiet Diplomacy"

For Goldberg, the "lesson is broader than the Holocaust": unbridled violation of human rights should never be countenanced and so-called "quiet diplomacy is singularly ineffective."

He cited his own experience as a U.S. delegate at the Belgrade Conference on the Helsinki Treaty. There he had approached the Soviet dele-

gates and "offered a deal": if the dissidents would be released, the voices against the USSR in the U.S. would be lifted. But the Russians kept up the harassment, in fact sending to forced labor or psychiatric institutions all the Soviet members of the Helsinki Watch Committee.

### Role Of Joint Distribution Committee

After the meeting, Goldberg was asked by this reporter to comment on the rescue efforts of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee during the Holocaust. He replied that he was aware of their work, but JDC was able to function only from 1933-39.

It was pointed out to him that JDC did, in fact, work throughout the entire Hitler period, as for example, JDC's financing of Raoul Wallenberg's rescue of 100,000 Hungarian Jews. Goldberg replied that he knew JDC had provided the necessary funds, but only 2,000 not 100,000 had been saved by Wallenberg.

This statement was surprising, since it is generally accepted that over 100,000 Jews were rescued by Wallenberg. In fact, Prof. Yehuda Bauer of Hebrew University, a leading authority on the Holocaust, has stated in his book "American Jewry and the Holocaust--The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee 1939-1945," that through its Swiss representative, Saly Mayer, JDC provided the bulk of the funds which enabled 119,000 Hungarian Jews to survive.

Bauer states: "The conclusion is that JDC financed most of the rescue activities in Budapest -- the direct feeding, the upkeep of the children's homes, the protection papers, and unknowingly, even the (Zionist) youth movements' underground activities." Bauer also points out that the JDC was instrumental in saving hundreds of thousands of European Jews, with the all too limited funds made available by American Jewish communities.

Emanuel Ringelblum, the martyred historian of the Warsaw Ghetto who was a JDC representative, wrote in his famous diary, discovered after the war and now in the archives of YIVO and Yad Vashem:

"Through the active and generous aid of the American Joint Distribution Committee, a network of institutions for communal welfare was spread throughout Warsaw and in the country ... The ORT, too carried on considerable work. Tens of thousands of adults and children were able to survive for a longer period because of the help of these institutions and of the ramified network of house committees which cooperated with them. These organizations conducted their self-sacrificing work up to the last minute, as long as even the slightest spark of life still burned in the Jewish group."

### LAWMAKERS PROTEST NON-DELIVERY OF U.S. MAIL TO SOVIET JEWS

WASHINGTON, May 10 (JTA) -- A group of Congressmen has appealed to Postmaster General William Bolger to urge "that our U.S. delegation bring up the problem of the non-delivery of United States mail to Soviet Jews and others with the Soviet postal authorities" at the forthcoming Universal Postal Union meeting in Bern, Switzerland.

According to the Washington office of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, the message sent to Bolger was initiated by Rep. Jim Courter (R. N.J.) and Benjamin Gilman (R. N.Y.) and signed by 81 of their colleagues. The lawmakers stressed that mail sent to the USSR is "a life line of support to Soviet citizens" wishing to be in contact with friends and family in the U.S.

The message said that international mail delivery must be viewed as an "integral element" of the human rights provisions in the Helsinki Final Act. Noting that many of their constituents had contacted them, the Congressmen pointed out that mail delivery is vital to those who have applied to emigrate.